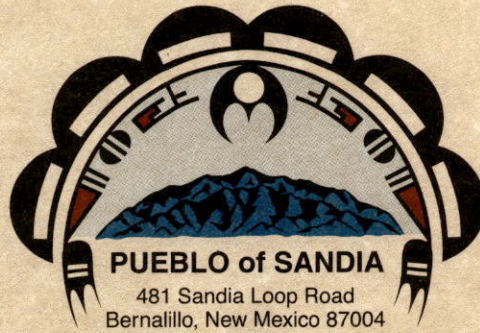


Stuart Paisano
Governor

Felix Chaves
Lt. Governor



(505) 867-3317
Fax (505) 867-9235
www.sandiapueblo.nsn.us

April 28, 2022

Sent via E-mail to Julia.Friedmann@mail.house.gov

The Honorable Melanie Stansbury
U.S. House of Representatives
1421 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Letter of Support for Proposed Legislation Captioned: Amending the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, and the Rio Grande Water Security Act

Dear Representative Stansbury:

On behalf of the Pueblo of Sandia, thank you for meeting with the Tribal Council last week and discussing important proposed federal legislation. We support both pieces of draft legislation captioned respectively: (1) Amendment to the "Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009"; and (2) Enactment of the "Rio Grande Water Security Act."

In this time of climate change, we are seeing increasingly dramatic reductions in snowpack and water flow in the Rio Grande. Obtaining sufficient irrigation water from the Rio Grande is central to the Pueblo agricultural way of life, which has successfully been practiced in the Rio Grande Valley since time immemorial. Droughts are increasingly straining the ability of systems to deliver water to our fields. To mitigate these water reductions, it is essential for the Pueblo to update and modernize our aging and deteriorating irrigation facilities, which are sorely in need of repair, to maximize efficient use of diminishing water supplies.

We believe the first proposed bill helps to guarantee essential rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructure for the Pueblos by amending the appropriation amount and term to reflect the realistic cost of such projects for the upcoming decade. We also find that the second bill further addresses the adverse impacts of climate change by taking a holistic approach to improving water security and quality for communities throughout the Rio Grande Basin. Creating a federal working group to work in partnership with tribal authorities is a step forward to our collective ability to implement purpose-driven recommendations in collaboration with our federal partners.

We support your efforts to help ensure the long-term health of the Pueblo culture and economy, as well as the efficient conservation of increasingly essential water resources. Please let me know if you or your staff would like any additional information on this important legislation. We look forward to hearing from you again soon.

Respectfully,


Stuart Paisano
Governor

cc: Representative Melanie Stansbury, via e-mail to lauren.vernon@mail.house.gov
Representative Teresa Leger Fernandez, via e-mail to james.green@mail.house.gov
Steffani A. Cochran, Pueblo of Sandia General Counsel (via e-mail)
File

May 17, 2022



Office of Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury (NM-01)
1421 Longworth HOB,
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Letter of Support for the Water Data and Security Act

To whom it may concern:

Please accept this letter as documentation of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District's (MRGCD) full support of the proposed Water Data & Security Act.

The MRGCD operates, maintains, and manages irrigation, drainage, and river flood control in the Middle Rio Grande Valley. MRGCD promotes efficient and responsible water management and plays an important role in supporting endangered species within our riparian corridor in cooperation with other local, state, and federal agencies. Severe drought conditions coupled with long-term climate projections for the Southwest United States and the Rio Grande Basin highlight the need for enhanced water data collection, which can inform the planning and execution of strategic, basin-wide water resource management projects. MRGCD and our constituents would greatly benefit from implementing the Water Data & Security Act to catalyze water data collection and improve the security and quality of water in the Rio Grande Basin for all users.

The Middle Rio Grande is home to an incredibly complex matrix of wildlife habitat, farmland, municipalities, and industry. As median water supply conditions continue to change, the need for adaptive, robust, and approachable tools for managing water are imperative. In short, we can't manage what we can't measure. Continuing to enhance water data collection on a granular level and then making that data accessible is the first step in how MRGCD and other water managers will be able to prepare against and ultimately combat water resource scarcity. Water security and quality for our communities, ecosystem health for fish, and wildlife, along with collaboration and consultation with Rio Grande Basin partners, are at the forefront of how MRGCD intends to meet the challenge of managing our most precious resource.

P.O. Box 581

87103-0581

1931 Second St. SW

Albuquerque, NM

87102-4515

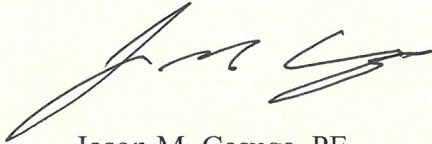
505.247.0234

Fax # 505.243.7308

MRGCD is committed to working with our local, state, tribal, and federal partners to improve our collective ability to manage water for the present while setting the foundation for how we will collectively manage water into the future.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding this letter of support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason M. Casuga', written in a cursive style.

Jason M. Casuga, PE
CEO/Chief Engineer